



The Levant Institute
of Advanced Studies
for the Culture of Peace
Centre of Excellence of the World Academy of Art & Science



PROGRAMME

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN EASTERN EUROPE



The World Congress of **SYRIAC STUDIES** symposium syriacum

14th edition

The International Conference of **CHRISTIAN ARABIC STUDIES**

12th edition

BUCHAREST

AUGUST 3-7 2026

Palace of Parliament



SECRETARIATUL DE STAT
PENTRU CULTE



PATRIARHIA ROMÂNĂ



ARHIEPISCOPIA
ROMANO-CATOLICĂ BUCUREȘTI



DEPARTAMENTUL PENTRU
DEZVOLTARE DURABILĂ



Institute for
Faith-Based
Diplomacy



INSTITUTUL PENTRU
LIBERTATE ȘI DEMOCRATIE



Institutul Național al
Patrimoniului
Ministerul Culturii



UNIVERSITATEA DIN
BUCUREȘTI
— VIRTUTE ET SAPIENTIA —



IDR
Institutul Diplomatic Român



Universitatea de Vest
din Timișoara



HISTORY AND LITERATURE OF VIOLET CHRISTIANITY



USB-ACT

Historians
without Borders



Fundația
Sfânta Tecla



CRAMA VIȘOARA

MEDIA



ROMANIAN
NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY
AGERPRES
Updating the world.



CENTRUL DE PRESĂ
BASILICA



Radio
România



TRINITASTV



BASILICA.RO
AGENȚIA DE ȘTIRI



Radio
TRINITAS

ZIARUL

LUMINA



Radio
România
Actualități



Radio
România
Cultural



Radio
România
Internațional



Radio
România
București fm



Radio România
Agenția de presă

R A D I O R



angelus tv

PARTNERS

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN EASTERN EUROPE

The World Congress of Syriac Studies
SYMPOSIUM SYRIACUM

14th edition

**The International Conference of
Christian Arabic Studies**

12th edition

**with the support of
the State Secretariat for Religious Affairs**

BUCUREȘTI
Palace of Parliament
August 3rd~7th, 2026

OFFICIAL OPENING

DAY 1 - August 3rd, 2026

Ion I.C. Brătianu Hall, Chamber of Deputies

8.00 - Registration

9.15-10.30 - Opening remarks

State officials and church representatives

Emil Constantinescu

**President of the Institute for Advanced Studies
in Levant Culture and Civilization**

Cătălin-Ștefan Popa

Chair

10.30-11.30 - Plenary Lecture

Kevin van Bladel (Yale University)

Demythologizing Syriac

11.30-12.00 - Coffee break

DAY 1 - August 3rd, 2026

Nicolae Bălcescu Hall, Chamber of Deputies

12.00-13.00 Session Manuscript Culture

12.00-12.20
Grigory Kessel
(Austrian Academy of Sciences)
Towards a New Catalogue of the Syriac Manuscripts at Sinai: Advances from the Old Collection and the New Finds

12.20-12.40
Jacob Lollar
(University of Durham)
Apocryphal Episodes in Syriac Illuminated Manuscripts

12.40-13.00
Erich Renhart
(VESTIGIA – Manuscript Research Centre, University of Graz)
Echoes of Ink and Faith. A Catalogue

Human Rights Hall, Chamber of Deputies

12.00-13.00 Session Biblical Philology and Translation

12.00-12.20
Jonathan Loopstra
(Redeemer University)
New Light on the “Short and Puzzling Massora on the Syro-Hexapla and the Translation of Jacob of Edessa”

12.20-12.40
Willem Th. van Peursen
(Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam)
A Computational Corpus Based Approach to Cognate Interference in the Peshitta

12.40-13.00
Matthias Benabdellah
(University of Lorraine)
Greek Lexical Borrowings as Theological Reconfiguration in the Syro-Hexapla Ben

13.00-14.00 Lunch break - Take Ionescu Hall

14.00-15.40 Session Turfan: Excavations and Manuscripts

14.00-14.20
Erica C. D. Hunter
(University of Cambridge)
Syriac Manuscripts at Turfan

14.00-15.40 Session New Methodologies in Syriac Studies

14.00-14.20
Nidanu O'Shea
(University of Oxford)
The Natural World in Syriac: Ecocritical Approaches

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

12.00-13.00 Session

Monastic Discipline and Prayer

12.00-12.20

Sonal V. Manoj

(Yale University)

*The Demon who Repented:
Contextualizing a Syriac Narrative
within Late Medieval Magical Practices*

12.20-12.40

Achraf Brahim

(University of Vienna)

*Prayer Texts in Transit: Melkite
Euchological Material in Syriac*

12.40-13.00

Sofia Puchkova

(University of Leicester)

*The Fight against Concubinage in the Life
of Mar Yawnan the Anchorite*

14.00-15.40 Session

**Syriac Philosophical Tradition:
From Bardaisan to Bar Hebraeus**

14.00-14.20

Yasuatsu Toyoda

(Waseda University, JSPS, Tokyo)

*Porphyry between Plotinus and Calcidius:
The Mutability of Matter in the Syriac
Evidence*

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

12.00-13.00 Session

Narsai and Isaac I

12.00-12.20

Elie Semaan

(Holy Spirit University USEK)

*Isaac of Antioch, Critical Edition
of Unedited Memre on the Ball*

12.20-12.40

Maksim Kalinin

**(Institute for Oriental and Classical
Studies, HSE University of Moscow)**

*Narsai on the Scourges of Hell and the
Renewal of Demons: A Channel for the
Reception of the Doctrine of Common
Salvation in the East Syriac Milieu*

12.40-13.00

Filothei Vîlcu

**(Institute for South-East European
Studies, Romanian Academy)**

*The Scripture in Rabban Joseph
Busnaya's Life*

14.00-15.40 Session

Narsai and Isaac II

14.00-14.20

Alexis Balmont

**(The Chinese University of Hong Kong,
The Chinese Institute for Synergetic
Studies of Humanities)**

*Beyond Vainglory: Merit and Grace in Isaac
of Nineveh and the Chinese Book of Those
Who Seek the Joy and Peace of the Mystics*

**Nicolae Bălcescu Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

14.20-14.40

Liu Wensuo

(Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou)
*New Archaeological Findings at the
Xipang (Shüipang) Jingjiao Monastery
Site, Turfan, Xinjiang, China*

14.40-15.00

Lijuan Lin

(Peking University)

*Reconstructing the East Syriac Hudrā:
New Evidence from the Turfan "Hudra J"
Fragments*

15.00-15.20

Tony Wang

(University of Oxford)

*Monasteries and Churches of the Church
of the East in Xinjiang and Central Asia*

15.20-15.40

Helene Rey

(King's College London)

*Archaeological Evidence of Entangled
Identities: Rethinking Syriac Christianity
in the Turco-Mongol World of 13th-14th
Century Central Eurasia*

15.40-16.10 Coffee break

16.10-17.30 Session

Philosophy and Mystics

16.10-16.30

Emanuele Zimbardi

(University of Turin)

*Hellenistic Philosophy in the Syriac
tradition: a first Survey on Syriac
Testimonies of Zeno of Citium and other
Stoic Philosophers*

**Human Rights Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

14.20-14.40

Carlo Emilio Biuzzi

**(University of Ghent/École Pratique
des Hautes Études)**

*Layered Laws, Layered Societies:
Approaching Syriac Legal Literature as a
Multi-Perspectival Source for the Social
History of Early Medieval Northern
Mesopotamia*

14.40-15.00

Yael Nuemah-Kremer

(University of Oxford)

*Narrative, Ritual, and the Embodied
Making of a Syriac Saint in Late
Antiquity*

15.00-15.20

Giorgia Nicosia

(University of Ghent)

*Setting Boundaries: Occurrences of the
Demarcational Function of Purity in
Syriac Sources*

15.20-15.40

Abigail Pearson, Anna Cherkashina

**(University College London/Tel Aviv
University)**

The Revelatio Esdrae in Syriac

16.10-17.30 Session

16.10-16.30

Karolina Tomczyszyn

(Catholic University of Leuven)

*Some Methodological Remarks on Syriac
Epistolography: A Case Study of the
Letters of Jacob of Edessa (d. 708), George,
bishop of the Arabs (d. 724), and John of
Litarb (d. 737/8)*

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

14.20-14.40

Diego Viola

(Friedrich Schiller University of Jena)

Translating Logic into Syriac: Porphyry's Isagoge and the Development of the Syriac Logical Lexicon

14.40-15.00

Kosta Gligorijevic

(University of Leipzig)

The Syriac Translation of Pseudo-Platonic Definitions and its Relation to the Extant Greek Text

15.00-15.20

Jens Ole Schmitt

(RVO Berlin)

Barhebraeus on Proving Perishable Things

15.20-15.40

Yury Arzhanov

(University of Salzburg)

The Role of Collections of Divisions and Definitions in Logical Education in Syriac Schools

16.10-17.30 Session

Chronicles

16.10-16.30

Izabela Jurasz

(University of Vienna)

The Soul Made from the *ityē*: Bardaisan's Elemental Anthropology and its Philosophical Foundations

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

14.20-14.40

Agapie Corbu

(Aurel Vlaicu University of Arad)

Saint Isaac the Syrian: From Reading the Scripture to its Interpretation

14.40-15.00

Miguel Galles

(Autonomous University of Barcelona)

An Unpublished Unique Coptic 19th Century Icon of Saint Isaac as a Warrior Saint Riding a Horse

15.00-15.20

Matthew Fairhurst

(University of Cambridge)

Isaac of Nineveh's View of Gehenna and its Reception in 20th century Theology

15.20-15.40

Titus John

(St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute, Kottayam)

The comparison of the concept of Silence in Indian tradition and silence in the writings of John of Apamea

16.10-17.30 Session

Beyond the 'Golden Age' of East Syriac

Mysticism: Ascetic Authors, Compilers and Translators in the Later Middle Ages

16.10-16.30

Alice Croq

(Paul Valéry University, Montpellier)

The Spiritual Elder in Medieval Egypt

**Nicolae Bălcescu Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

16.30-16.50

Hidemi Takahashi
(University of Tokyo)

*On the Syriac-language Sources of Bar
'Ebroyo's Philosophical and Scientific
Works*

16.50-17.10

Olivier Defaux
(UMR 8167 Orient & Méditerranée,
CNRS, Paris)

*Two Letters of Severus Sebokht on Easter
Computation*

17.10-17.30

Jennifer Griggs
(Institute for Orthodox Christian
Studies, Cambridge)

*From Evagrius Ponticus to Sergius of
Reshaina: the Concept of tēoriya in the
Development of a West Syrian Tradition
of Mysticism*

17.30-18.30

[Ion I.C. Brătianu Hall,
Chamber of Deputies]

Plenary Lecture

Jack Tannous
(Princeton University)

*On the History of Maronite and Melkite
Syriac, Once Again*

**Human Rights Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

16.30-16.50

Maria Thomas
(University of Vienna)

*Thresholds of the Visible: Strategies
for Figuration and Abstraction in the
Buchanan Bible*

16.50-17.10

Anna Giaconia
(University of Ghent)

*Women and Inheritance in the Early East
Syriac Legal Tradition (7th-8th c.)*

17.10-17.30

Clara Forcada i Zamora
(San Damaso Ecclesiastical University
Madrid)

*Martyrdom Characteristics in the First
Letter of Simeon of Beth Arsham*

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

16.30-16.50

Charbel Chahine

(Holy Spirit University of Kaslik, USEK)

*Le témoignage de la Chronique de Séert
sur la "Messe" de Saint Éphrem*

16.50-17.10

Hubert Kaufhold

**(Ludwig-Maximilian University of
Munich)**

*Nochmals zur Textüberlieferung der
Chronik von Arbela*

17.10-17.30

Mohamed Rashed

(Doha Institute for Graduate Studies)

The Chronicle of Theophilus of Edessa

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

16.30-16.50

Emiliano Fiori

(Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

*Syriac Asceticism and the Metaphysics
of Light in the Works of Abū 'l-Ma'ānī (d.
1480): Continuity and Innovation*

16.50-17.10

Adrian C. Pirtea

(Austrian Academy of Sciences)

*Joseph Hazzāyā's Letter on the Three
Stages: Glimpses into its West Syriac,
Arabic and Armenian Reception*

17.10-17.30

Giovanni Gomiero

(University of Ghent)

*Wandering in the East Syrian 'Paradise
of the Fathers': West Syriac Rearranging
and Selecting Practices in the Manuscript
Mar Behnam, MBM 364 (ca. 1231)*

DAY 2 - August 4rd, 2026

Nicolae Bălcescu Hall, Chamber of Deputies

9.00-10.00 Session **Fragmentation and Recovery**

9.00-9.20
Ephrem Aboud Ishac
(Austrian Academy of Sciences)
Assembling Fragmented Syriac Liturgical Manuscripts in a Digital Corpus

9.20-9.40
Hellen Murre van den Berg
(Radboud University)
The 'Book of the Garden' (CCM 398)
Revisited: One Monk's Prism on the Church of the East in the Late Sixteenth Century

9.40-10.00
Joachim Braun
(Catholic University, Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)
Rethinking the "Syro-Byzantine Period" (Charon): Patterns and Phases in Syro-Melkite Liturgical Manuscript Production

Human Rights Hall, Chamber of Deputies

9.00-10.00 Session **East-Syriac Mystics and their Monastic Context**

9.00-9.20
Nathan Tilley
(The Catholic University of America)
Deification by Likeness in the Ascetic Theology of Babai the Great

9.20-9.40
Giovanni Gomiero
(University of Ghent)
In Search of Divergent East Syrian Monks in Late Sasanian Period: the Cases of Gregory of Cyprus and Babai of Nisibis

9.40-10.00
Alexander Tamrazov
(A.M. Gorky Institute of World Literature of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow)
New Data on the Manuscript Heritage of Isaac of Nineveh: On the Composition and Authorship of His Fifth and Sixth Collections

10.00-10.30 Coffee break

10.30-11.30
[Ion I.C. Brătianu Hall, Chamber of Deputies]
Plenary Lecture
David G. K. Taylor
(University of Oxford)
"Sarah is my sister": Women in Ephrem's Prose Commentaries on Genesis and Exodus

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

9.00-10.00 Session
Jacob of Sarug I

9.00-9.20
Aimee Hannoush
(Princeton University)
*Liturgical Reception of Jacob of Serugh:
The Case of Lazarus Saturday*

9.20-9.40
David Copan
(Catholic University of Leuven)
*Weaving a Crown of Praise: Exploring the
Triumph of Joy with Cognitive Metaphor
Theory in Jacob of Serugh's Holy Week
Corpus*

9.40-10.00
Jacob Thekeparambil
**(St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research
Institute, Kottayam)**
*Jacob of Sarug's Homily on the Apostle
Thomas and the Resurrection of Our Lord*

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

9.00-10.00 Session
Bishops and Authority

9.00-9.20
Shane Patrick
(University of Oxford)
*The Miaphysite Abu Qurrah:
Transmitting Christian-Muslim Polemic
across Confessional Lines*

9.20-9.40
Mihayel Akyüz
(Mardin Artuklu University)
*The Letters of Theodoros bar Wahbun:
Counter-Patriarchal Discourse in the
12th-Century Syriac World*

9.40-10.00
Gabriel Rabo
(University of Heidelberg)
*Bar Salibi's Syriac Commentary on the
Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed*

**Nicolae Bălcescu Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

11.30-12.50 Session

Liturgy, History and Church Formation

11.30-11.50

Roger Akhrass

**(Department of Syriac Studies, Syriac
Orthodox Patriarchate Damascus)**

*The Evolution of the Feast of the Lord's
Entry into the Temple in the Syriac
Orthodox Tradition*

11.50-12.10

**Susan Ashbrook Harvey
(Brown University)**

*Jacob of Sarug, Letter 37: Women Lost and
Found*

12.10-12.30

**Ute Possek
(Harvard Divinity School)**

*The Letters of Thomas of Germanikeia
and the Formation of the Miaphysite
Church*

12.30-12.50

**Muriel Debié
(École Pratique des Hautes Études
Sorbonne, PSL)**

*The Seventh Century from a Syriac
Perspective*

**Human Rights Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

11.30-12.50 Session

11.30-11.50

Matteo Raterio Poiani

**(University of Strasbourg/Abbazia di
Praglia)**

*Gregory of Cyprus: First Soundings from
his Letters*

11.50-12.10

**David Michelson
(Vanderbilt University)**

*The Limits of Explaining the Ineffable:
The Pedagogical Methods of Dadisho'
Qatraya's Commentary on the Paradise of
the Fathers*

12.10-12.30

**Robert Kitchen
(University of Salzburg)**

*Inside Dadisho Qatraya: How to be a
Monk*

12.30-12.50

**Valentina Duca
(Independent Scholar)**

*"There is a Gaze in Wonder": the Issue of
the 'I-You Distinction' within Mystical
Experience as a Central Problem in
East-Syriac Mysticism*

12.50-14.00 Lunch break - Take Ionescu Hall

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

**11.30-12.50 Session
Christology**

11.30-11.50
Beniamin Zakhary
(Yale University)
*Semitic Mathematics in the Translation of
East Syriac Christology*

11.50-12.10
Iustinian Mîndrilă
(Georg-August University of Göttingen)
*Confessing Christ through Sanctity:
Christology in the Unedited Memra on the
Life of Isho'yahb III (649-659) Ascribed to
Henanisho' I (685/686-699/700)*

12.10-12.30
David Carpen
(University of Bucharest)
*"In Nature and in Truth – in Name and
in Metaphor": Christological Language
and Doctrine in Philoxenus of Mabbug's
Exegesis of Matthew and Luke*

12.30-12.50
Joseph Faragalla
(Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)
*Rewriting Christology in the Transmission
of Ibn al-Tayyib's Commentary on the Four
Gospels*

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

**11.30-12.50 Session
Early Tradition**

11.30-11.50
Philip Abbott
(Brigham Young University)
Didaskalia as Memorial

11.50-12.10
Matthew Keil
(Fordham University)
*From Taybūtā to Poenitentia: Hrotsvitha
of Gandersheim's Transmission and
Transformation of a Syriac Penitential
Tale*

Syriac Christianity in India

12.10-12.30
István Perczel
(Central European University, Vienna)
*A Presentation of The SRITE Project
for Exploring and Preserving the
Manuscripts of the Syrian Christians
of India: What has been done, what is
to be done?*

12.30-12.50
Radu Mustață
(Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
*A Catholic Reading of Išo'dad of Merv's
Commentary on the Gospels in Early
Modern South India*

**Nicolae Bălcescu Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

14.00–15.40 Session

The Making of the Antioch Bible and Beyond

14.00–14.20

Jeff Childers

(Abilene Christian University)

Translating the Peshitta for Our Time: Linguistic Aid, Text-Critical Resource, or Scripture?

14.20–14.40

George Kiraz

**(Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton/Beth Mardutho)**

Critical Survey of Printed Syriac Editions from 1555 to the Present

14.40–15.00

Jerome Lund

(Independent Scholar)

*Conversations between Versions
Translation versus Transliteration*

15.00–15.20

Richard Taylor

(Dallas Theological Seminary)

Inner-Syriac Corruptions in the Peshitta Psalter

15.20–15.40

Jonathan Loopstra

(Redeemer University)

Wrestling with the Rather Puzzling Peshitta of Job

15:40–16:10 In parallel

Book presentation:

The Rediscovery of a Lost History of Central Asian Christianity
(Gorgias Press exhibition table)

**Human Rights Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

14.00–15.40 Session

14.00–14.20

Jason Scully

(Seton Hall University)

Secret and Hidden Knowledge in East-Syriac Mystical Thought

14.20–14.40

Yulia Furman

(Free University of Berlin)

John Bar Penkaye between Mysticism and Scholasticism: Two Sides of One Mind

14.40–15.00

Marco Pavan

(University of Roma Tre)

“New World”, “New Life”, and “World to Come” John of Apamea’s Legacy in the Writings of Josphe Hazzaya

15.00–15.20

Polina Ivanova,

Maksim Kalinin,

Alexander Preobrazhensky

(HSE University, Moscow)

A Newly Found Syriac Mystic: An Unstudied Text on the Three Stages in the Vision of Jesus Christ and its Place in the East Syriac Mystical Tradition

15.20–15.40

Vittorio Berti

(University of Padua)

The Mystical Experience in the Life of Rabban Joseph Busnaya

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

14.00–15.40 Session

**Editorial Practices for Christian Arabic
Texts**

14.00–14.20

Marie-Thérèse Elia, Johnny Matar
(Holy Spirit University of Kaslik /
Catholic University of Leuven)

*Des manuscrits à l'édition critique: le cas
des Masā'il d'Ibn Zur'a*

14.20–14.40

Martino Diez

(Catholic University of Milan)

*Rich and Intricate: al-Makīn ibn al-Amīd's
Textual Tradition and How to Edit it*

14.40–15.00

Habib Ibrahim

(Goethe University Frankfurt)

*From Diplomatic Transcription to Fully
Vocalized Text: Three Case Studies in
Editing Christian Arabic Sources (11th–18th c.)*

15.00–15.20

Paolo La Spisa

(University of Florence)

*Is there such a thing as Christian Arabic
publishing practice? Examples and
perspectives*

15.20–15.40

Alice Croq

(Paul Valéry University, Montpellier)

*Editing Christian Arabic sources: Current
Methods and Future Prospects*

14.00–15.40 Session

14.00–14.20

Emy Merin Joy

(Central European University, Vienna)

*Syrian Christians and Garshuni
Malayalam Manuscripts: Reviving a
Forgotten Literary Tradition*

14.20–14.40

Theres Pattery

(Central European University, Vienna)

*Pālpustakam and Paresman/Parāsaman:
A Study of the Books of Soothsaying and
Magic of the St. Thomas Christians in
Kerala*

14.40–15.00

Saranya Chandran

(Central European University)

*Revisiting Early Lexicographic Practices
in Kerala: A Study of the 16th–17th
Century Syriac–Garshuni Malayalam
Dictionary*

15.00–15.20

Susan Thomas

(Sree Sankaracharya University of

Sanskrit)

*Forging Orthodoxy: Ecclesial
Repatterning of the Syrian Christian
Church in Kerala*

15.20–15.40

Ignatius Payyappilly

(Archdiocesan Archives, Ernakulam, Kochi)

*Medieval Migration of St Thomas Syrian
Christians in Kerala*

15.40–16.10 Coffee break

**Nicolae Bălcescu Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

16.10-17.30 Session

16.10-16.30

Bas ter Haar Romeny

(Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

*The Bible of Edessa: Translating and
Annotating the Peshitta of Exodus*

16.30-16.50

Katherine Painter

(University of Oxford)

*The Making of an Ephrem Study Bible:
New Frontiers in Digital and Public
Humanities*

16.50-17.10

Daniel McConaughy

**(California State University,
Northridge)**

*Early Use of the Philoxenian
Version*

17.10-17.30

Ali Langroudi

(Dubnow Institute, Leipzig)

*Matthew 1:19 in Syriac, Arabic and
Persian Versions*

17.30-18.30

[Ion I.C. Brătianu Hall, Chamber of Deputies]

Plenary Lecture

Aaron Michael Butts

(University of Hamburg)

*A Plea for the Field of Oriens Christianus, or Why our
Current Disciplinary Boundaries Fail Us*

**Human Rights Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

16.10-17.30 Session

16.10-16.30

Alexey Muravyev

(Lomonossov Moscow State University)

*The Hagiographical Paradeigmata in the
Syriac Mystical and Medical Context*

16.30-16.50

Benedict Valentin Vesa

(Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca)

*The Concepts of "Light" and "Glory" in
the East Syriac Mystics: Significance and
Theology*

16.50-17.10

Stanislava Khizhniakova,

Maksim Kalinin

(HSE University, Moscow)

*Meditation, Recitation, Wander and
Wonder in Narsai's Memra on the
Renewal of Creation: Practices of the
Mind that Approach the Age to Come
as Sources of East Syriac Mystics'
Descriptive Language*

17.10-17.30

Christine Chaillot

(Independent Scholar)

*The Syrian Orthodox Prayer for blessing
Icons and Theology*

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

16.10-17.30 Session
Conflict and Memory

16.10-16.30
Stefan Marić
(University of Belgrade)
*Toward a Theology of Martyrdom in
Selected Persian Martyr Acts: Motifs and
Literary Sources*

16.30-16.50
Nikita Bogachev
(Princeton University)
*Coexistence, Conflict, and Exchange:
the Religious Communities of Syria and
East Asia Minor Between the Byzantine
Reconquest (969) and the Crusades*

16.50-17.10
George Vattitharayil
**(Pontifical Athenaeum of Saint
Anselm, Rome)**
*Eastern Monastic Heritage and
Contemporary Mission: An Analysis of the
Vision of 'Orientale Lumen' in the Ecclesial
Context of the Syro-Malabar Church*

17.10-17.30
Ephrem Reese
**(The Catholic University of America,
Washington D.C.)**
Dionysius the Areopagite and the Crusades

16.10-17.30 Session

16.10-16.30
Francesco Gusella
(University of Naples "L'Orientale")
*Artistic Evidence of Flemish Mystic
Spirituality in the Jesuit Mission to St.
Thomas Christians in Malabar (1570s – 1630s)*

16.30-16.50
Jincy Othottil
**(St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research
Institute Kottayam)**
*Theological analysis of Liturgy of Hours
for the feast of Epiphany of our Lord
according to Church of the East*

16.50-17.10
István Perczel
(Central European University Vienna)
*Mor Iyovannis Hidayat Allah and his
Mission in India*

17.10-17.30
Jeeyon Lim, Brett Kirken
(Central European University Vienna)
*Jacob of Serugh's Mimro On the Invention
of the Cross, on Constantine, and the
Empress Helena in Ms Pampakuda Konat
Syr. 52: Value of the Indian Witness and
Philological Considerations*

18.30 Cocktail Reception - Take Ionescu Hall

DAY 3 - August 5rd, 2026

Nicolae Bălcescu Hall, Chamber of Deputies

9.00-10.00 Session

Economy, Bible, and Philosophy in Arabic Contexts

9.00-9.20

Cynthia Villagomez

(Winston-Salem State University)

*An Economic Profile of Emesa/Hims/
Homs from Late Antiquity to Medieval
Islam: Evidence from Syriac and
Christian Arabic Texts and Material
Culture*

9.20-9.40

Nathan Gibson

(Goethe University, Frankfurt)

*Biblia Arabica 2026-2046: Plans and
Prospects for Arabic Bible Research in the
Academies Project*

9.40-10.00

Harald Suermann

(University of Bonn)

*Philosophical Sentences in a
Christological Interpretation of
the Quran*

Human Rights Hall, Chamber of Deputies

9.00-10.00 Session

Knowledge across Cultural Boundaries

9.00-9.20

Anna Cherkashina

(Tel Aviv University)

*Syriac Medicine in Hebrew Script: The
Judaean-Syriac Medical Texts from the
Cairo Geniza*

9.20-9.40

Jan van Ginkel

(Free University of Berlin)

*The Extraordinary King of the Mice. Some
New Observations on the Last Chapter of
the Old Syriac Kalila And Dimna*

9.40-10.00

Shraga Bick

(Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*From law-free to law-full Christianity:
The Development of Christian Lists of
Commandments in Early Medieval Syriac
Christianity*

10.00-10.30 Coffee break

10.30-11.30

**[Ion I.C. Brătianu Hall,
Chamber of Deputies]**

Plenary Lecture

George Kiraz

(Institute for Advanced Study Princeton/Beth Mardutho)

Mustašriq and Šarqī: The Ethical Terrain of Syriac Philology

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

**9.00-10.00 Session
Defining Orthodoxy**

9.00-9.20
Antonia Kura
(Humboldt University of Berlin)
*Patriarchal Power(lessness) in the Face
of Muslim Authorities: An Internal
East Syriac Discourse on Authority
and Coexistence in the History of the
Patriarchs of Kitāb al-Majdal*

9.20-9.40
Bishara Ebeid
(Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
*Consubstantiality in the Tritheist
Controversy: Insights from a Short
Florilegium in MS BL Add 12155 (ff.
173r-174v)*

9.40-10.00
Mickel Ragheb, Nabil Farouk Fayez
**(Alexandria School for Christian
Studies)**
*Liturgical Hymn or Homiletic Mēmra? A
Critical Examination of Selected Turuhāt
Surviving Only in Arabic*

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

**9.00-10.00 Session
Councils and Frontiers**

9.00-9.20
Annunziata Di Rienzo
(Sapienza University of Rome)
*Reinterpreting History: The Synodal
Letter of the Western Fathers Regarding
the Deposition of Papa Bar Aggai*

9.20-9.40
Cristina Tava
(University of Padua)
*Spatial Strategies and Ecclesiastical
Rivalries in Late Antique Mesopotamia:
The Case of Maruta of Tagrit*

9.40-10.00
Karen Hamada
(University of Tokyo)
*The Historical Narrative about the
Councils of Ephesus II (449) and the
Council of Chalcedon (451) in the
Armenian Version of the Life of Saint
Barasuma*

**Nicolae Bălcescu Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

11.30-12.50 Session

Witnesses to Early Christian Literature

11.30-11.50

Nichifor Tănase

(West University of Timișoara)

Prayer and Panpersonalism: From the Syriac Fathers to Silouan the Athonite, Joseph the Hesychast, and Dumitru Stăniloae

11.50-12.10

Antonio Stefano Sembiente

(Istituto Italiano per la Storia Antica Rome/Federico II University of Naples)

On the Indirect Tradition of Gregory Nazianzen's Carmen 1, 2, 33: The Contribution of the Syriac Version

12.10-12.30

Hanna Kabalan

(Saint Joseph University of Beirut)

Marātib al-Kanā'is or the Ecclesiastical Titles in al-Qānūn al-Muqaddas

12.30-12.50

Oana Capatina

(Harvard University)

Unearthing Paul's Vision of the Underworld: Reconsidering the Syriac Paratexts to the Apocalypse of Paul

**Human Rights Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

11.30-12.50 Session

Arabic Manuscripts of Sinai: New Research on Texts and Paratexts

11.30-11.50

Vevian Zaki

(Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich)

Keeping the Manuscripts Safe? Endowment Notes in St. Catherine's Monastery

11.50-12.10

Adrian C. Pirtea

(Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna)

Christian Arabic Collections of Apophthegmata Patrum in the Sinai Collection

12.10-12.30

Vasiliki Chamourgiotaki

(Free University of Berlin)

John Climacus: A Preliminary Study on the Melkite Arabic Manuscripts

12.30-12.50

Giovanni Mandolino

(University of Padua)

From the Areopagus to Sinai: MS Sinai Ar. 85 and Pseudo-Dionysius' Arabic Fortune

12.50-14.00 Lunch break - Take Ionescu Hall

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

11.30-12.50 Session

**The Grammar of Doctrine: Logic,
Lexicon, and the Systematization of
Christian Arabic Theology**

11.30-11.50

Elie Dannaoui

(University of Balamand)

*The “Chalcedonian Lexicon” of Abdallāh
ibn al-Fadl al-Antākī: A Study of the
Philosophical and Theological Sources
and Methodology of at-Ta’līm al-Awwal in
Sharh al-Amāna al-Mustaqīma*

11.50-12.10

Bishara Ebeid

(Ca’ Foscari University of Venice)

*Between Syriac and Arabic: Elias of Nisibis
and the “Self-Subsistent” in Christian
Metaphysical Thought*

12.10-12.30

Habib Ibrahim

(Goethe University Frankfurt)

*The Reception of Perichōrēsis from
Anthony of Saint-Simon to Butrus
al-Tūlāwī*

12.30-12.50

Peter Zieme

**(British Academy / Berlin-Brandenburg
Academy of Science and Humanities)**

*Destan by Ayvazoghli Sergis on the
execution of Yonan, a Christian martyr,
in Kirkuk in 1799 – based on Garshuni-
Turkish manuscripts*

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

11.30-12.50 Session

Ephrem I

11.30-11.50

Ruthanne Brooks

(University of Oxford)

*Between Cloud and Fire: St. Ephrem the
Syrian’s Exegesis of Darkness and Light
in Exodus*

11.50-12.10

Alex Lopez

(Catholic University of America)

*A Hitherto Unidentified Sentence Acrostic
in Ephrem’s Madrashe against Heresies
40*

12.10-12.30

Emidio Vergani

(Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome)

Mary of Bethany in Ephrem the Syrian

12.30-12.50

Tudor Paraschiv

(Archdiocese of Tomis)

*From Sterility to Spiritual Fruitfulness:
The Samaritan Woman in Ephrem the
Syrian’s Theopoetic Mystagogy*

**Nicolae Bălcescu Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

14.00–15.40 Session
Textual Production and Rewriting

14.00–14.20
Seth Stadel
(University of Oxford)
The Non-Exegetical Sources of the Denha-Grigor Commentary: First Soundings

14.20–14.40
Loay Hanna
(University of Balamand)
The Circumstances that Led to the Production of the Arabic Liturgical Gospel at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century by the Patriarchate of Jerusalem

14.40–15.00
Anne-Marie Misconi
(SOAS, University of London)
Engaging the Syriac Voice in Romanian Orientalist Translations of Christian Arabic Texts: Dominique Bashir Misconi and His Scholarly Collaboration with Father Vasile Radu

15.00–15.20
Lasse Toft
(University of Oslo)
On an Unknown Theological Treatise of Eulogius of Alexandria in Syriac

15.20–15.40
David Vasquez
(University of Münster)
The Diatêtês of John Philoponus: New Syriac Edition and Commentary

**Human Rights Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

14.00–15.40 Session
Canon Law in the Arabic Tradition

14.00–14.20
Joe Glynias
(Yale University)
Translating Byzantine Legal Commentary into Arabic: The Arabic Translation of the “Canons of the Council of Carthage”

14.20–14.40
Rocio Daga Portillo
(Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich)
Byzantine and Islamic Law Converging in the Coptic Nomocanons: Case Studies

14.40–15.00
Habib Ibrahim
(Goethe University Frankfurt)
Sylvester of Antioch’s Al-Nāmūs al-Sharīf: New Insights into its Making and Intellectual Context

15.00–15.20
Nima Jamali
(Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich)
Land and Law in the Church of the East (550–900 CE)

15.20–15.40
Teodor Tabus
(University of Kiel)
The Relationship of Emperor Justinian (527–565) and Severus of Antioch (512–538): From Imperial Negotiations to the 536 Edict of Condemnation

15.40–16.10 Coffee break

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

14.00-15.40 Session
**Syriac and Armenian Scriptural
Heritage**

14.00-14.20
Joss Childs
(Brown University)
Rewriting Aramean History in the Peshitta

14.20-14.40
Emilio Bonfiglio
(University of Hamburg)
*A Forgotten Page of Armeno-Syriac
Relations: The Armenian Translations of
John Chrysostom's Commentary on the
Gospel of John*

14.40-15.00
Ignacio Carbajosa
(San Damaso University Madrid)
*Traces of Jewish Textual Transmission
in the Old Testament Peshitta: Toward a
Theory of the Origins of the Peshitta*

15.00-15.20
Eva María Rodrigo Gómez
(Catholic University of Leuven)
*When Adam Met Eve: Eve's Creation
According to Emmanuel bar Shahhare*

15.20-15.40
Benjamin Gleede
**(Berlin Brandenburg Academy of
Sciences)**
*Narsai of Nisibis Reading Theodore of
Mopsuestia's Genesis Commentary*

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

14.00-15.40 Session
Ephrem II

14.00-14.20
Vincenzo Manes
(Parish of San Flaviano, Rome)
*Hymns on Virginité 22: Ephrem on Jesus
and the Samaritan Woman (Gv 4,4-42)*

14.20-14.40
Serafim Seppälä
(University of Eastern Finland)
*Ephrem the Existentialist: A
Kierkegaardian reading of Letter to
Hypatios*

14.40-15.00
Austin McCredie
(University of Pennsylvania)
*Performance and Parody in Ephrem the
Syrian's Carmina Nisibena 52-59*

15.00-15.20
Matthew Wanner
(Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome)
*Blinded at the Gate: Negative Theophany
and the Ruin of Demonic Knowledge in
Nisibene Madrasha 41*

15.20-15.40
Cody Strecker
(Hillsdale College)
*Ephrem's Scribal Metaphysics in 'Against
Bardaisan's Domnus'*

**Nicolae Bălcescu Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

16.10-17.30 Session
Textual Transmission

16.10-16.30
Nicholas Al-Jeloo
(University of Duhok)
Cataloguing Syriac and Garshuni Manuscripts at the Assyrian Church of the East's Bishopric in Baghdad: Differences from Previous Catalogues and Collection Highlights

16.30-16.50
Giovanni DiRusso
(Harvard University)
The Origin of the Arabic Apocalypse of Peter/Book of the Rolls: A New Hypothesis

16.50-17.10
Romain Louge
(Catholic University of Lyon)
Sinai Arabe 154: une nouvelle édition et traduction du premier écrit théologique en arabe

17.10-17.30
Jonas Karlsson
(University of Hamburg),
Arabic Language in Ethiopic Script – Examples from Egypt

17.30-18.30
[Ion I.C. Brătianu Hall, Chamber of Deputies]
Plenary Lecture
Salam Rassi
(University of Edinburgh)
Syriac and the Arabic Occult Sciences: Missing Link or Salient Topos?

**Human Rights Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

16.10-17.30 Session
Copto-Arabic and Syriac Interactions

16.10-16.30
Ted Erho
(University of Hamburg)
Some Rarer Arabic and Copto-Arabic Texts in Ethiopic Translation

16.30-16.50
Iskandar Bcheiry
(American Theological Library Association, Chicago)
Syriac-Coptic Relations During the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries from the Perspective of Copto-Arabic Sources of that Era

16.50-17.10
Asuka Tsuji
(Kawamura Gakuen Women's University)
Reception of the Copto-Arabic Polemic Kitab al-Ishraq in the Syriac Orthodox Church: 14th–19th Centuries

17.10-17.30
Manhal Makhoul
(Catholic University of Leuven)
Circulation et adaptation des sources historiques: le cas de Georges Elmacin entre l'histoire des Patriarches d'Alexandrie et al-Tabarī

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

16.10-17.30 Session

**The Julian Romance: New Perspectives
on the Syriac and Arabic Versions and
their Sources**

16.10-16.30

**Alexey Muravyev
(Lomonossov Moscow State University)**
*The Egyptian Compiler of the Syriac
Romance and the Sinaitic Arabic
Translation*

16.30-16.50

**Michael D. Ethington
(University of Lille),**
*"He wanted to remove the captives from
his province": Deportees in the Syriac
Julian Romance*

16.50-17.10

**Mikhail Vedeshkin
(Institute of World History, Russian
Academy of Sciences)**
*From Pseudo-History to Eyewitness
Testimony: The Historical Core of the
Syriac Romance of Julian*

17.10-17.30

**Marianna Mazzola
(Sapienza University of Rome)**
*A New Witness of the Julian Romance: MS
Vat. Sir. 37 and the Death of Constantius II*

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

16.10-17.30 Session

Jacob of Sarug II

16.10-16.30

**Katherine Painter
(University of Oxford)**
*"The Sublime Eye of Prophecy":
Portraits of Prophets in Jacob of Sarug's
Hexaemeron*

16.30-16.50

**Manolis Papoutsakis
(Independent Scholar)**
*On the Problem of Dating the Verse-
Homilies of Jacob of Serugh*

16.50-17.10

**Frederic Rilliet
(Independent Scholar)**
*La figure de Jean-Baptiste chez Jacques de
Saroug*

17.10-17.30

**Elie Khoueiry
(Catholic University of Leuven)**
*Et si la redondance dans les mimré de
Jacques avait une portée théologique?*

DAY 4 - August 6rd, 2026

Nicolae Bălcescu Hall, Chamber of Deputies

9.00-10.00 Session
Authority, Canon, Doctrine

9.00-9.20
Sergey Kim
(University of Lausanne)
Canons of Apostles in Syriac and Greek

9.20-9.40
Jack Engelmann
(University of Notre Dame)
*Polemics or Pious Anxiety? Evaluating
Interreligious Disputation in Christian
Arabic Commentaries on The Nicene
Creed*

9.40-10.00
Mariam Nanobashvili
(Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State
University)
*The Christian Arabic Version of the
Martyrdom of Seven Ephesian Youths
according to the 18th-century Antiochian*

Human Rights Hall, Chamber of Deputies

9.00-10.00 Session
Textual Reconstruction

9.00-9.20
George Kiraz
(Institute for Advanced Study Princeton/
Beth Mardutho)
*Reconstructing the Disiecta Membra of
a Christian Arabic Manuscript in the
Köprülü Islamic Collection*

9.20-9.40
Filippo Frigo
(Ludwig-Maximilian University
of Munich)
*Towards a New Edition of Yahyā Ibn
Ḡarīr's Kitāb al-Muršid: Observations on
Chapter 30*

9.40-10.00
Orsolya Varsányi
(Library of the Hungarian Academy of
Sciences)
*Divine Will, Providence, and Agency
in 'Ammār al-Basrī's Kitāb al-masā'il
wa-l-aḡwiba: Lexicon and Conceptual*

10.00-10.30 Coffee break

10.30-11.30
[Ion I.C. Brătianu Hall, Chamber of Deputies]
Plenary Lecture
Valentina Duca
(Independent Scholar)
*Genealogy of a Contemplative Lexicon: The Formation of Isaac of Nineveh's Mystical
Language between Greek and Syriac Sources*

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

**9.00-10.00 Session
Councils and Frontiers II**

9.00-9.20
Jan Zelazny
(John Paul II Pontifical University of Krakow)
What Does "Reception of Conciliar Decrees" Mean in the East? A Study of the Acceptance of Nicaea 325 in the Eastern Synods of the 5th and 6th Centuries

9.20-9.40
Simon Birol
(Goethe University, Frankfurt)
Transmission and Reception of the Syriac Ahīqār Story

9.40-10.00
David Kiger
(Milligan University)
Christians as the Persians Saw Them

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

**9.00-10.00 Session
Poetry**

9.00-9.20
Robert Isaf
(Humboldt University of Berlin)
The Drunken Dove: Exploring the Role of the Holy Ghost in Barhebraeus' Christian Sufi Poetry

9.20-9.40
Alexandra Belozertseva, Anton Pritula
(Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg)
A Poem on Tamerlane's Invasion by Isaiah of Bet Sbirinā (14th –15th c.)

9.40-10.00
Youssef Tannous
(Holy Spirit University of Kaslik)
Syriac Psalmody

**Nicolae Bălcescu Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

11.30-12.50 Session

**The Gospels in Manuscript Reception
and Beyond**

11.30-11.50

**Barthelemy Enfrein
(University of Angers)**

*The Exegetical Collection on the Gospels
at the End of Bl Add. 12168: A Work in
Progress?*

11.50-12.10

**Piotr Jutkiewicz
(Pontifical Biblical Institute)
Creativity amid Literalness:**

*Developments in the Verbal Conjugation
in Sixth- and Seventh-Century Syriac on
the Example of the Harklean Translation
of the Four Gospels*

12.10-12.30

**Mats Eskhult
(University of Uppsala)**

*Montpellier MS H 163: The Four Gospels
in Arabic*

12.30-12.50

**Sophia Dege-Müller
(University of Hamburg)**

*The Prayer of Mary in Bartos and the
Miracle of Mary in Bartos by Pseudo-
Cyril of Jerusalem - New insights in the
textual transmission from Arabic into
Ethiopic*

**Human Rights Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

11.30-12.50 Session

**The Intellectual and Scholastic Life of
Syriac Christian Communities in the 5th
and 6th Centuries**

11.30-11.50

**Daniele Reano
(Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa)**

*Village Schools: Profile and Role of
the 'Third Pillar' of the East Syrian
Educational Network*

11.50-12.10

**Marco Pavan
(University of Roma Tre)**

*The Conflict between Greek and Christian
παιδεία in John of Apamea's writings*

12.10-12.30

**Raffaele Tondini
(University of Padua)**

*A Christian School Before Edessa?
Theodorian Legacy in Adrian's
Introduction to the Divine Scriptures*

12.30-12.50

**Claudia Rammelt
(Georg-August University of Göttingen)**

*Christological Controversy between
Edessa and the Persian Gulf: The Example
of Ibas of Edessa*

12.50-14.00 Lunch break - Take Ionescu Hall

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

11.30-12.50 Session

**Between Anonymity and
Misattribution: Tracing Hidden Voices
in Premodern Christian Arabic and
Judeo-Arabic Writings**

11.30-11.50

Bishara Ebeid

(Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

Dānyāl al-Mārdīnī and the Writings

Attributed to Him in MS Leiden Or. 1290

11.50-12.10

Youssef Rizk

(Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome)

*Reexamining Muhtasar al-Bayān fī Tahqīq
al-'Imān: Authorship, Manuscripts, and
the Shape of a Copto-Arabic Theological
Work*

12.10-12.30

Marco Francescato

(Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

*Speak, Name: Tracking al-Sawwāf in the
Kitāb al-manāzir*

12.30-12.50

Sebastiano Siviero

(Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

*Arab Christian Astrological Texts:
Transmission, Adaptation, and Use in the
18th-19th Centuries*

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

11.30-12.50 Session

From Periphery to Center

11.30-11.50

Abiel Jerusalem

**(St. Sergius Orthodox Theological
Institute, Paris)**

*A Perspective on the Monks and Hermits
of the Ethiopian Highlands in Light of
Syriac Monasticism*

11.50-12.10

Christine Gad Elsayed Ghali

(University of Cairo)

*Did the Ethiopian Feast of the Finding of
the True Cross Have Syriac Origins?*

12.10-12.30

Hareth Ibrahim

(University of Balamand)

*Tabarani: An Obscure 9th-Century
Simple Monk Becomes an Apologist*

12.30-12.50

Yousef Kouriyh

(Free University of Berlin)

*Ignazios Zakkay Bar Wahib 1332 und sein
Buch der Materie*

**Nicolae Bălcescu Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

14.00–15.40 Session

Patristic Heritage

14.00–14.20

Pierre Jabbour

(Saint Joseph University of Beirut)

Parallèles textuels entre le «Khartiso d-haymonuto d-'idto qadišto» de Yūhannā Mārūn et les échanges sévériens avec les «moines de Mārūn» (BL Add. 12155, f. 163v–168v)

14.20–14.40

Jean Reynard

(French National Centre for Scientific Research, Paris)

L'angélologie d'Ignace Bar Wahib, patriarche d'Antioche

**Between Tradition and Transition:
Syriac Orthodox Communities in the
Middle East and Europe**

14.40–15.00

Matthias Binder

(Philipps University of Marburg)

Writing for Whom? Languages Chosen in over 100 Years of Sayfo Narratives

15.00–15.20

Ferida Braham

(Ruhr University of Bochum)

Two Worlds, One Generation – Syrian Orthodox Youth in Mutual Motion

15.20–15.40

Rebekka Scheler

(Protestant Church of Westphalia)

“Faith Gives Me Strength.” Faith as a Resource among Christian Women in Northern Iraq and Lebanon

**Human Rights Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

14.00–15.40 Session

14.00–14.20

Hartmut Leppin

(Goethe University of Frankfurt)

Intellectual Life in Edessa from the Death of Rabbula to the Dissolution of the School of Edessa: Aristocratic Traditions, Intellectual Authority and Episcopal Power in Late Antique Edessa

14.20–14.40

Anna Usacheva

(University of Bern),

The Role of Monastic Elders in Shaping the Intellectual and Physical Activities of Inmates in Syriac Monasteries

14.40–15.00

Matthias Perkams

(University of Jena)

Philosophy and Historiography in Barhadbšabbā 'Arbāyā's Church History and His Cause of the Foundation of Schools

15.00–15.20

Matteo Raterio Poiani

(University of Strasbourg /Abbazia di Praglia)

Translating Evagrius: The Formation of a Syriac Reception in the Fifth Century

15.20–15.40

Efrem Yildiz

(University of Salamanca)

The Teaching methodology and Activity of the Schools of Edessa and Nisibis between the 5th and 6th centuries

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

**14.00-15.40 Session
Jewish Roots and Beyond**

14.00-14.20
David Calabro / Gaby Abousamra
(Brigham Young University / Lebanese University)
Jewish Elements in Early Modern Syriac Amulets: Continuity and Contact

14.20-14.40
James Nathan Ford (Bar-Ilan University)
A Manichaean Incantation Bowl and its Jewish Parallels from Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages

14.40-15.00
Topias Tanskanen
(Åbo Akademi University)
Patriarchs and the Law in Aphrahat in Relation to Early Jewish Sources

15.00-15.20
Reagan Patrick
(University of Toronto)
Syriac Tables of Nations as Indigenous Geographic Knowledge

15.20-15.40
Hazim Alabdullah
(History of West Asia, University of Erfurt)
Patriarch Ignatios Ni'matullah (1522-1587) in Italy: Working with the Medicis and the Papal Court

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

**14.00-15.40 Session
Greek, Syriac and Coptic**

14.00-14.20
Andrey Filatov
(Institute for Oriental and Classical Studies, Moscow Higher School of Economics)
"To Pass by Without Stumbling": Byzantine Theotokion Lost in the Greek Tradition and Found in the Coptic Agpeya

14.20-14.40
Ulrike-Rebekka Nieten
(Free University of Berlin)
The Greek Prosodic Signs of Late Antiquity and the Syriac Accents

14.40-15.00
Youhanna Youssef
(French Institute of Oriental Archaeology, Cairo)
Rehabilitation of Pope Cyril III ibn Laqlaq

15.00-15.20
Alexander Johannes Edmonds
(University of Münster)
Did Iōannēs Malalas' Account of Assyrian History Employ Syriac Sources?

15.20-15.40
Stanislava Khizhniakova/Alexey Muraviev
(Institute for Oriental and Classical Studies, Higher School of Economics Moscow)
On the Origin of the Syriac Medical Fragment from St. Petersburg

**Nicolae Bălcescu Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

**Human Rights Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

15.40-16.10 Coffee break

16.10-17.30 Session

16.10-16.30

Jan Gehm

(University of Erlangen-Nürnberg)

*Transnationality and Textual Culture
in the Integration of Syriac Orthodox
Communities in Europe*

16.30-16.50

Dorina Treutner-Seitz

(Ruhr University of Bochum)

*Negotiating Faith in Diaspora: Syriac
Orthodox Perspectives on Belief and
Belonging*

16.50-17.10

Claudia Rammelt

(Georg-August University of Göttingen)

*Faith is also important to me in Germany.
The Question of Religious Change among
Christian Refugees from Syria*

17.10-17.30

Jimmy Issa

(University of Toronto)

*Scaling Syriac Translation: Addressing
the Translation Bottleneck using LLM
Pipelines*

17.30-18.30

[Ion I.C. Brătianu Hall, Chamber of Deputies]

Plenary Lecture

Columba Stewart

(Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, St John's University)

*Completing the Circle: Bringing the Syriac Manuscripts of the Middle East
and India More Fully into the Conversation*

16.10-17.30 Session

16.10-16.30

Dmitrij Bumazhnov

(Georg-August University of Göttingen)

*Some Considerations on Isaac of
Antioch's Homily on the Love of Learning*

16.30-16.50

Iskandar Bcheiry

**(American Theological Library
Association, Chicago)**

*A Sermon on Monks by George, Bishop
of the Arabs (d. 724 AD), According to the
Unpublished Syriac Version, Found in the
Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures
Chicago*

16.50-17.10

Paul Karamel-Koyickal

**(St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research
Institute, Kottayam)**

*"Let Your Priests be Clothed with
Righteousness" (Ps 132:9): Reflections on
Priesthood in the West Syriac Tradition*

17.10-17.30

Erkki Tuomioja

(HWB Chair, Finland)

*Presentation of Historians Without
Borders*

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

**16.10-17.30 Session
Liber Graduum**

16.10-16.30
Pablo Argárate
(University of Graz)
The Holy Spirit in the Syriac Liber Graduum

16.30-16.50
Rene Roux
(University of Italian Switzerland)
Making Sense of Divine Law: The Syriac Liber Graduum and Ptolemy's Epistula ad Floram

16.50-17.10
Kyosuke Sunada
(Daito Bunka University)
The Progression of Columns as the Direction of Salvation: Reinterpreting the "Left-to-Right" Claim in the Cave of Treasures

17.10-17.30
Jenny Sebastian
(Paris Lodron University, Salzburg) Taksā d' segdtā: A Liturgical and Theological Study on the Rite of Genuflection in the East Syriac Qurbana on the Feast of Pentecost

**16.10-17.30 Session
Liturgical Tradition II**

16.10-16.30
Saliba Er
(University of Salzburg)
Revising the Syriac Anaphora of St James According to the Commentary of Lazarus Bar Sabtha

16.30-16.50
Andreas Ellwardt
(University of Fribourg)
Arabica non leguntur? Wie die Arbeit am arabischen Testamentum Domini in seiner Oktateuch-Version das syrische Testamentum Domini neu betrachten läßt

16.50-17.10
Andrei Macar
(Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași)
Honouring the Day of the Lord in Sasanian Persia: Gabriel of Qatar and his Theology of Sunday

17.10-17.30
Chittaruvickal Mathew Anoop John
(University of Vienna)
Paradise: A Symbol of an Eschatological Life in West Syrian Liturgy

18.30 Cocktail Reception - St Thecla Foundation

DAY 5 - August 7rd, 2026

Nicolae Bălcescu Hall, Chamber of Deputies

8.30-9.30 Session Archives of Faith

8.30-8.50

John Habib

(Yale University)

*Ibn Kabar and John of Damascus:
Formulating the Theology of the Icon in
Medieval Coptic Cairo*

8.50-9.10

Anahit Khosroeva

(Harvard University)

*Archival Resources on Assyrians at the
National Archive of Armenia*

9.10-9.30

Kevin White

(University of Salzburg)

*Rediscovery of a Lost History of Syro-
Aramaic Christianity in the Ili, Chu,
Talas, and Syr Darya Regions: A Survey of
Soviet and Modern Archaeological Data*

10.00-11.00

[Ion I.C. Brătianu Hall, Chamber of Deputies]

Plenary Lecture

Alberto Rigolio

(Durham University)

The Rise of the Memra

Human Rights Hall, Chamber of Deputies

8.30-9.30 Session Expressions of Faith

8.30-8.50

Borja Gonzalez Fernandez

(Necmettin Erbakan University)

*Refashioning Sanctity: Rafqa, Hindiyya,
and the Tridentine Model of Female
Holiness in Maronite Context*

8.50-9.10

Martino Masolo

(Catholic University of the Sacred
Heart, Milan)

*Life in the Hārat al-Ifranġ: Archival
Documents from the Convent of the Holy
Land in Cairo*

9.10-9.30

Youstos Alorshalemy

(St. Bishoy Monastery)

*The Text of the Visit of the Patriarch
of Antioch on the Northern Wall of the
Church of the Virgin Mary in the Fortress
of St. Bishoy Monastery, Wadi El Natrun*

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

8.30-9.30 Session

The Bible and Its Readers in Eastern Christianity: Authors, Knowledge, and Authority from a Cross-Cultural Perspective

8.30-8.50

Charbel Nassif

(Saint Joseph University of Beirut)

La réception et la traduction arabe des commentaires bibliques du jésuite Cornelius a Lapide (1567–1637) dans le Proche-Orient chrétien (XVIIIe–XIXe siècles)

8.50-9.10

Anna Ohanjanyan

(Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts Matenadaran, Yerevan)

“The Root of the Godless”: Armenian Biblical Polemics against Catholicism

9.10-9.30

Octavian Negoită

(Romanian Academy)

The Athonite Monk Pachomios Rousanos and the Bible

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

8.30-9.30 Session

Epigraphy and Intaglio

8.30-8.50

Irina Achim / Cătălin Pavel

(Institute of Archaeology/University of Constanta, and Institute for the History of Religions)

Christianity and Paganism: An Oriental Victoria-Fortuna Intaglio Inscribed “ZOH” discovered in Capidava (Scythia)

8.50-9.10

Gökçe Akyüz

(Hacettepe University)

An Inscription from the Monastery of Mor Abay in the Context of Syriac-Armenian Relations

9.10-9.30

Gaby Abou Samra

(Lebanese University)

Karshuni Inscriptions at Dayr Mar Sarkis, Qartaba (Lebanon)

09.30-10.00 Coffee break

**Nicolae Bălcescu Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

11.00-12.20 Session
Living Memory

11.00-11.20
Nicholas Al-Jeloo
(University of Duhok)
The Lost Years of the Patriarchate of the East: Reconstructing History from Oral Traditions

11.20-11.40
Josh Mugler
(Hill Museum and Manuscript Library, St John's University)
Manuscript Witnesses to the Assyrian and Armenian Genocides

11.40-12.00
Shabo Talay
(Free University of Berlin)
Reassessment of Syriac Inscriptions in Light of the Aramaic Vernaculars

12.00-12.20
Elizabeth Marteiijn
(Protestant Theological University, Utrecht)
Rituals of Return: Diasporic Religion and Nationalist Expression among Internally Displaced Christian Palestinians in Northern Israel, 1948–Present

13.30-14.30
[Ion I.C. Brătianu Hall, Chamber of Deputies]
Plenary Lecture
Françoise Briquel-Chatonnet
(French National Centre for Scientific Research, Paris)
In the Footsteps of Syriac Engravers and Copyists

**Human Rights Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

11.00-12.20 Session
Intellectual Traditions

11.00-11.20
Mathew Madain
(Princeton University)
Contending Visions of a Holy Land: Sacred Geography in the Eleventh Century Diwān of Sulaymān al-Ghazzī

11.20-11.40
Marlène Kanaan
(University of Balamand)
Une pseudo-autobiographie arabe de Denys l'Aréopagite

11.40-12.00
Abanob Barsoum
(Catholic University of Leuven)
The Role of Intellect ('Aql) in Sāwīrus ibn al-Muqaffa's Theology

12.00-12.20
Ronney Gemayel
(Saint Joseph University of Beirut)
Une œuvre à géométrie variable : les avatars manuscrits de 'Uḡalat rākib al-tarīq

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

11.00-12.20 Session

11.00-11.20

Zofia Aleksandra Brzozowska
(University of Lodz)

*Old Testament Sapiential Books in the
Literature of Medieval Novgorod the Great:
From Selectivity to the Reception of the
Entire Biblical Text*

11.20-11.40

Simona Nicolae
(Institute for South-East European
Studies/University of Bucharest)
*Les 'exempla' bibliques dans les discours de
l'empereur Manuel II Paléologue: de Solon
aux Apôtres*

11.40-12.00

David Neagu
(Institute for South-East European
Studies, Romanian Academy)
*"...The Holy Spirit came on them as he had
come on us at the beginning": Armenians'
Use of the Bible to Reject the Primacy of
the Holy See in the 12th-13th Centuries*

12.00-12.20

Serge Frantsouzoff
(Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of
the Russian Academy of Sciences, St.
Petersburg)
*Anti-Calvinist Treatises in Arabic
Preserved in the National Library of
Russia*

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

11.00-12.20 Session

Across Loci, Beyond Categories

11.00-11.20

Ziran Guo
(National and Kapodistrian University
of Athens)
L'aperçu des études syriaques en Chine

11.20-11.40

Emil Anton
(Independent Scholar)
*Comparison and Encounter between
Syriac/Assyrian and Laestadian/
Apostolic Lutheran Christianities*

11.40-12.00

Alexandre Varela, Mateusz Potoczny
(University of Fribourg / University of
Opole)
*The Syriac Heritage of the Knanaya
Christians in Kerala*

12.00-12.20

Marie-Laure Davigo
(École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris)
*Une inconnue: l'icône du Saint Golgotha,
créée au XIXe siècle dans des ateliers
russes de Jérusalem pour les pèlerins
russes et chrétiens de l'empire ottoman*

12.20-13.30 Lunch break - Take Ionescu Hall

**Nicolae Bălcescu Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

**Human Rights Hall,
Chamber of Deputies**

14.30–15.00 Coffee break

15.00–16.00 Session

15.00–15.20

Roula Skaf, Youhanna Youssef
(CNRS, National Institute for
Oriental Languages and Civilizations,
Paris/ French Institute of Oriental
Archaeology, Cairo)

*Notes sur un manuscrit de Dayr al-
Suryan*

15.20–15.40

Ioana Feodorov
(Institute for South-East European
Studies, Romanian Academy)
*Recent Advances in the Research of the
Beginnings of Arabic Printing in the East:
Projects and Published Sources*

15.40–16.00

Maria Skordi
(École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris)
*Cultures in Dialogue on the Island of
Cyprus: the Maronite Experience*

15.00–16.00 Session

Identity Construction

15.00–15.20

Nicholas Bishara
(Institute for South-East European
Studies, Romanian Academy)
*A Collection of Letter Templates for
Arabic-Speaking Christians*

15.20–15.40

Lawrence Makho
(University of Duhok)
*Publications in Iraq after 1972: A Case
Study of the Press*

15.40–16.00

Emil Anton
(Independent Scholar)
*Continuity and Identity: An Analysis of
Assyrian, Syriac/Aramean, and Chaldean
Nationalist Arguments*

16.00–17.00

[Human Rights Hall, Chamber of Deputies]

Plenary Session

**HWB Introduction & Protecting Christian Cultural Heritage in the Middle East:
Toward Sustainable Development and a Culture of Peace**

Speakers:

Erkki Tuomioja (founder Historians Without Borders-HWB, Finland; former Foreign Minister)

Brian Cox (Institute for Faith-Based Diplomacy)

Cristian David (Institute for Freedom and Democracy)

Mark Donfried (Institute for Cultural Diplomacy Berlin)

Birgit Schäbler (University of Erfurt, Chair of History of West Asia: Near and Middle East)

Valentin Toma (Institute of Anthropology “Francisc I. Rainer”;

Consultative Council for Sustainable Development)

**Avram Iancu Hall,
Senate**

**Dimitrie Cantemir Hall,
Senate**

14.30-15.00 Coffee break

15.00-16.00 Session

15.00-15.20
Matay Batsom
(University of Salamanca)
Tayyaye in Syriac tradition

15.20-15.40
Musa Yaramis
(Pontifical Oriental Institute Rome)
*Durekyātā du XIX^e siècle envers la
bienheureuse Vierge Marie: Théologies
mariale, christologique et pastorale*

15.40-16.00
Siyuan Dong
(University of California)
*In Search of Subjectivity: The Formative
Role of Christians and Christian Thought
in Socialist and Nationalist Movements of
Modern Southwest Asia*

15.00-16.00 Session

Legal-Social Representations

15.00-15.20
Layth Shakir
(University of Baghdad)
*Christianity among Qudha's Tribes
through the 7th and 8th Centuries*

15.20-15.40
Souad Slim
(University of Balamand)
*Les waqfs Chrétiens dans les cours de
justice Ottomanes*

15.40-16.00
Jehan Mamdouh Mahmoud
(Alexandria University)
*The image of women in the manuscript
of "The Book of the Cases of the Mansurin
Kinga" between its Arabic and Syriac
Versions of the "Rechtsbuch"*

17.00

**Closing Remarks and Announcement of
the Next Symposium Syriacum and
the Conference of Christian Arabic Studies**

TIMETABLE

The 14th World Congress of Syriac Studies (Symposium Syriacum) and the 12th Conference of Christian Arabic Studies Palace of the Parliament, Bucharest, August 3-7 2026

Monday, 3 August

09:00 Registration • **09:30-10:30** Opening Ceremony and Welcome Remarks
• **10:30-11:30** Plenary Lecture - Kevin van Bladel (Yale University) • **12:00-17:30** Parallel Sessions (Manuscript Culture, Biblical Philology and Translation, Monastic Discipline and Prayer, Narsai and Isaac, Turfan, New Methodologies, Syriac Philosophy, Mysticism, Chronicles) • **17:30-18:30** Plenary Lecture - Jack Tannous (Princeton University)

Tuesday, 4 August

09:00-10:00 Parallel Sessions • **10:30-11:30** Plenary Lecture - David G. K. Taylor (University of Oxford) • **11:30-17:30** Parallel Sessions (Church Formation, East Syriac Mysticism, Jacob of Sarug, Christology, Early Tradition, Christian Arabic Texts, Indian Christianity, Biblical Translation, Conflict and Memory) • **17:30-18:30** Plenary Lecture - Aaron Michael Butts (University of Hamburg) • **18:30** Cocktail Reception

Wednesday, 5 August

09:00-10:00 Parallel Sessions • **10:30-11:30** Plenary Lecture - George Kiraz (Institute for Advanced Study Princeton / Beth Mardutho) • **11:30-17:30** Parallel Sessions (Early Christian Literature, Sinai Manuscripts, Christian Arabic Theology, Ephrem Studies, Canon Law, Armenian Heritage, Textual Production and Transmission, Jacob of Sarug) • **17:30-18:30** Plenary Lecture - Salam Rassi (University of Edinburgh)

Thursday, 6 August

09:00-10:00 Parallel Sessions • **10:30-11:30** Plenary Lecture - Valentina Duca
• **11:30-17:30** Parallel Sessions (Gospel Reception, Syriac Education and Intellectual Life, Christian Arabic Studies, Jewish Roots, Syriac Diaspora, Liber Graduum, Liturgical Traditions, Patristic Heritage) • **17:30-18:30** Plenary Lecture - Columba Stewart (Hill Museum & Manuscript Library) • **18:30** Cocktail Reception

Friday, 7 August

08:30-09:30 Parallel Sessions • **10:00-11:00** Plenary Lecture - Alberto Rigolio (Durham University) • **11:00-12:20** Parallel Sessions • **13:30-14:30** Plenary Lecture - Françoise Briquel-Chatonnet (CNRS, Paris) • **15:00-18:00** Final Session & Closing Events, including the high-level plenary discussion "Protecting Christian Cultural Heritage in the Middle East: Toward Sustainable Development and a Culture of Peace", followed by the Closing Ceremony

**The Levant Institute of Advanced Studies for
the Culture of Peace**

**Boulevard Mareşal Constantin Prezan no 2A
Bucharest, Romania**

phone: +40723 289 799

e-mail: office@institutlevant.ro

institut.levant@gmail.com